

Appln No. 10/723,817
Amdt date January 8, 2009
Reply to Office action of November 10, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate for swimming pools surrounded by a deck having a plurality of sockets, the lightweight fence and gate comprising:

a plurality of poles, each of the plurality of poles including an insert within each pole and a pin fixedly attached along a top length of the pin to each insert, a bottom end of the pin protruding from a bottom of each pole, wherein the bottom end of the pin is configured to be removably inserted into one of the plurality of sockets in the deck;

a mesh screen tensioned between the plurality of poles except at a gate opening in the lightweight fence, the mesh screen having top and bottom bindings;

~~the~~ a gate positioned at the gate opening and comprising a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members, a first horizontal brace for spacing the pair of spaced upright support members and a length of mesh screen tensioned between the pair of spaced upright support members;

support means capable of withstanding lateral tension forces of the mesh screen for supporting and latching the gate, the support means comprising at least a first gate pole of the plurality of poles attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members on one side of the gate opening and a second gate pole of the plurality of poles attached to the other of the pair of spaced upright support members on another side of the gate opening;

hinges secured to the support means on one side of the gate; and

a latch device secured to the gate and to the support means on an opposite side of the gate from the hinges;

~~the deck comprising a plurality of sockets, each of the plurality of sockets configured to receive one pin.~~

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2. (Previously Presented) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insert comprises plastic.

3. (Previously Presented) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pin comprises metal.

4. (Previously Presented) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first gate pole and the second gate pole each include a cross member attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members.

5. (Previously Presented) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 4, wherein the gate includes a generally U-shaped frame opening upwardly with a first horizontal brace secured to lower ends of the pair of spaced upright support members and a second horizontal brace secured to the pair of spaced upright support members on a pool side of the mesh screen at a height well below the top of the gate fabric.

6. (Previously Presented) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the insert comprises polyvinylchloride.

7. (Previously Presented) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the pin comprises stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the first gate pole and the second gate pole each include a plastic insert within each gate pole and a metal pin attached to each insert, the metal pin protruding from a bottom of each gate pole, wherein the metal pins are received in the deck and wherein cross members are attached to both of the gate poles.

9. (Previously Presented) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 8, wherein the metal pin is attached to the plastic insert by an adhesive.

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10. (Currently Amended) A lightweight fence and gate for swimming pools surrounded by a deck having a plurality of sockets, the lightweight fence and gate comprising:

a plurality of poles, each of the plurality of poles including an insert within each pole and a pin fixedly attached along a top length of the pin to each insert, a bottom end of the pin protruding from a bottom of each of the plurality of poles and configured to be ~~inserted~~ removably insertable into the one of the plurality of sockets in the deck;

a first length of mesh screen tensioned between the plurality of poles except at a gate opening in the lightweight fence defining the fence;

a gate in the fence including a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members and a second length of mesh screen tensioned between the pair of upright support members of the gate; and

support means to which the first length of mesh screen is attached for supporting the fence and gate and for latching the gate including a truss structure capable of isolating ~~the~~ lateral tension forces of the first length of mesh screen on opposite sides of the gate, the support means comprising at least one gate pole of the plurality of poles on each opposite side of the gate opening attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members;

~~the deck comprising a plurality of sockets, each of the plurality of sockets configured to receive one pin.~~

11. (Previously Presented) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 10, wherein the insert comprises plastic.

12. (Previously Presented) A lightweight fence and gate as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pin comprises metal.

13. (Previously Presented) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 10, wherein the pin is attached to the insert by an adhesive.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for installing a self closing gate in a tensioned removable swimming pool fence comprising a plurality of poles, the plurality of poles including

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an insert within each pole and a pin attached along a top length of the pin to each insert, a bottom end of the pin protruding from a bottom of each pole, the plurality of poles connected by flexible mesh fencing except at a gate opening, the method comprising:

removably inserting the bottom end of each pin protruding from each of the plurality of poles into a deck surrounding a swimming pool with the flexible mesh fencing in tension to maintain the fence in tension, the deck having drilled sockets configured to receive the bottom end of each pin, wherein first and last poles of the plurality of poles define the gate opening, the first and last poles each constituting a pair of gate poles of the plurality of poles connected to each other to define a support structure capable of absorbing tension of the flexible mesh fencing;

fabricating a gate including a pair of side rails, each side rail of the pair of side rails attached to one of the pair of gate poles of the plurality of poles, a cross rail and flexible mesh tensioned between the pair of side rails;

hinging the first of the pair of side rails of the gate to the first of the pair of gate poles;
and

installing a latch between the second of the pair of side rails of the gate and the second of the pair of poles of the tensioned fence;

whereby the gate is free to open and close without interference by the tension of the mesh fencing.

15. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the insert comprises plastic.

16. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the pin comprises metal.

17. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the pin is attached to the insert with an adhesive.

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18. (Currently Amended) A gate and a pair of gate poles for the gate in a tensioned removable swimming pool fence, each of the pair of gate poles comprising:

a lower end;

an insert within the lower end of each of the pair of gate poles; and

a pin fixedly attached along a top length of the pin to the insert, the pin having a diameter smaller than a diameter of the pole and a cylindrical bottom portion that protrudes from the lower end, the cylindrical bottom portion terminating at a substantially flat bottom surface, the cylindrical bottom portion of the pin being configured to be ~~inserted~~ removably insertable into a drilled socket in a pool deck;

the gate comprising a frame having a pair of spaced upright support members, wherein each of the pair of gate poles is attached to one of the pair of spaced upright support members to allow the gate to be free to open and close without interference from the tension of the removable swimming pool fence.

19. (Previously Presented) The gate and pair of gate poles according to claim 18 wherein the insert is comprises plastic.

20. (Previously Presented) The gate and pair of gate poles according to claim 18 wherein the pin comprises metal.

21. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The lightweight fence and gate according to claim 1, wherein the pin is fixedly attached to the insert by an adhesive.

25. (Currently Amended) The gate and pair of gate poles according to claim 18, wherein the pin is fixedly attached to the insert by an adhesive; ~~and wherein the pin is removably insertable into the drilled socket.~~